

August 24, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As a longstanding community stakeholder, both individually and in business, please accept this letter as my show of support for full funding of the Mercer Corridor project.

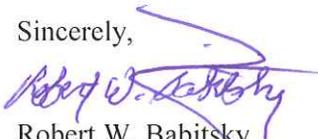
We are members of the South Lake Union neighborhood, and fully understand the importance of this vital link to improved freight mobility, new job creation and for enhanced pedestrian and bicycle safety.

We see the project as a tremendous opportunity for our region. As our community leaders have spent decades in creating a future vision for South Lake Union to help propel our city in to one of the most progressive and best places to work and live, it is very important that we provide the necessary infrastructure to help us all move forward. In my opinion, we have no alternative as the current situation is not one that can support us in the future.

As always, the economic challenges are significant, however, there is not a better time to move forward than now. Through federal and local support, we can take advantage of a buying opportunity in our current marketplace. There certainly is need for a local stimulus to our economy and there is a significant workforce available to make the project happen now.

Thank you for your consideration and best of luck on moving the project forward.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Babitsky
Executive Vice President/Area General Manager

Cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin